

**LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Item No. 3
Mtg. Date October 7, 2014
Dept. City Manager

Item Title: Authorization to Submit Planning Grant

Staff Contact: Graham Mitchell, City Manager

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution (**Attachment B**) authorizing the submittal of a grant application for the preparation of a Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and Noise Study.

Item Summary:

Caltrans provides transportation planning grants to promote a balanced, comprehensive multimodal transportation system (also known as Complete Streets). The grant may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes addressing local and regional transportation needs and issues that lead to the adoption, initiation, and programming of transportation improvements. Projects that incorporate sustainability, preservation, mobility, safety, innovation, economy, health and equity can be considered for the grant.

Staff seeks authorization to submit an application for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant in support of the preparation of a Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and a Noise Study.

The staff report (**Attachment A**) describes the need for a Lemon Grove Street Design Manual, an ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and a Noise Study, the proposed project scope, the Caltrans grant, local match requirements as well as other future potential grant opportunities. A resolution (**Attachment B**) authorizing submittal of a grant application is provided for City Council

Fiscal Impact:

Staff recommends seeking \$120,000 for the preparation of the Street Design Manual, an ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and Noise Study with a 11.47% local match (\$13,760) in-kind or third party contribution.

Environmental Review:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section [] | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

Public Information:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 300 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting | |

Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Resolution
- C. Table of Contents from Model of Design Manual for Living Streets

LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 3

Mtg. Date October 7, 2014

Item Title: Authorization to Submit Planning Grant

Staff Contact: Graham Mitchell, City Manager

Discussion:

This staff report provides an overview of the need for a Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study, and a Noise Study, a proposed project scope, the Caltrans grant, local match requirements as well as other future potential grant opportunities.

A resolution (**Attachment B**) authorizing submittal of grant application for \$100,000 is provided for City Council consideration.

Background

On September 4, 2012, the City Council adopted the Housing Element and on July 15, 2014, the City Council adopted the Health and Wellness Element of the Lemon Grove General Plan. Both the Health and Wellness Element and the Housing Element recognized the importance of multimodal transportation concepts in the livability and sustainability of a community. Although the Lemon Grove General Plan has been recognized by the State of California as having Complete Street policies, the complete streets movement throughout the nation has evolved to more thorough and mainstream policies that promote multimodal transportation networks.

The City Council has (through the recent adoption of these General Plan Elements, the approval and implementation of the Downtown Village Specific Plan and the Main Street Promenade) expressed a desire to implement a more comprehensive set of Complete Street policies in Lemon Grove.

Specific programs identified in the adopted Housing Element and the Health and Wellness Element included a Street Design Manual, Master Street Tree Plan and a Mobility Element Update. The preparation of a Mobility Element is ineligible for the grant; however, the Street Design Manual and Master Street Tree Plan are eligible and are included in the proposed grant request. Because the City is required to adopt an ADA transition Plan and that plan requires an inventory of existing pedestrian conditions, staff recommends it be included in this grant request.

These programs, once prepared and published, require the preparation and adoption of a Mobility Element Update to be fully implemented. The current General Plan was adopted in 1996 and contains a Mobility Plan centered on a level of service (LOS) analysis. The Mobility Element is out of date in regards to:

- LOS analysis for vehicles only, other modes are not measured,
- State is updating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines and encouraging a Vehicle Miles Traveled analysis rather than LOS analysis (vehicle traffic),
- Mitigation measures associated with current CEQA thresholds address vehicle circulation only,

Attachment A

- The City has not completed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory and reduction policies have not been instituted (State requirement), and
- Current circulation patterns and land use designations require analysis and revisions now that SR125 has been completed.

If the grant application is successful, the preparation of the Street Design Manual and the concurrent preparation of a Mobility Element Update would be ideal. Staff recommends that the Mobility Element Update be prepared in-house and include:

- Complete Street policies (referencing Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan and Capital Improvements Program),
- Greenhouse Gas Emission inventory (currently underway), analysis and reduction policies,
- Modification of transportation land uses and description, and
- Environmental clearance including mitigation measures.

Staff will generate a work program for a Mobility Element Update for City Council review and direction upon receiving news of a successful grant application.

Proposed Project Scope

Multimodal transportation networks allow for all modes of travel including walking, bicycling, and transit to be used to reach key destinations in a community and region safely and directly. Design concepts for complete streets create networks that are accessible to all modes of mobility and all users no matter their age or ability. The potential benefits of a multimodal transportation network may include safer travel for all users, promotion of active lifestyles, reduction of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, and improving conditions for existing businesses by revitalizing the public realm. The proposed project will focus on these design concepts and benefits in the work program.

Ultimately, a Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan and a Master Street Tree Program may be combined into one document that incorporates guidelines for streetscape amenities that encourage walking and bicycling. The development of the guidelines will explore topics previously introduced by the City Council (encourage planting of edible plants and fruit trees, provide shade trees, etc.) and will address potential non-standard street design and details, low impact design (LID) standards, and implementation strategies. Street improvements will be identified to target areas in the City to better enhance local and regional connectivity and protect all users with a goal to incorporate priority projects into the Capital Improvement Program.

The proposed project scope includes:

1. *Street Design Manual (including the Master Street Tree Plan)*
Utilize the "Model Living Streets Design Manual Template." A Table of Contents from the Model Design Manual is attached and identifies potential topics that will be considered throughout the process (**Attachment C**). A thorough examination of the desired character of the whole community as well as residential and commercial neighborhoods will be a part of this document. The Master Street Tree Plan is considered a part of this document.
2. *ADA Transition Plan*
ADA is a Federal program to eliminate discrimination in the physical environment. The plan is a tool used to ensure that the removal of travel barriers are addressed. These plans must inventory physical obstacles and their location, provide adequate opportunity for residents with disabilities to provide input into the transition plan, describe the methods to make facilities accessible, provide a schedule for modifications, identify staff

Attachment A

responsible for implementing the plan and generate a budget. This plan is required in order for the City to qualify for certain Safe Route to School projects.

3. *Traffic Study*

Evaluate existing conditions and measure vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle movements and loads. Analyze proposed designs established by the Design Manual, existing and proposed modifications to the traffic patterns shown in the current General Plan, and identify potential impacts and mitigation measures to be included in the Environmental Documentation.

4. *Noise Study*

Evaluate existing conditions and measure current noise levels and generate projections based on future loads. Identify land use conflicts, potential impacts and mitigation measures to be included in the Environmental Documentation.

Public participation will be required as a part of the grant and an outreach program will be conducted as approved by the City Council.

Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

Caltrans provides transportation planning grants to promote a balanced, comprehensive multimodal transportation system. The grant may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes addressing local and regional transportation needs and issues that lead to the adoption, initiation, and programming of transportation improvements. Projects that incorporate sustainability, preservation, mobility, safety, innovation, economy, health and equity will be considered for the grant. The preparation of Complete Streets plans are included as examples of projects that fit the purpose of the grant.

Local Match

The Caltrans grant requires a 11.47% local match (approximately \$13,765 for the proposed grant request of \$120,000) and staff time will be allocated towards fulfilling this requirement.

Other grant opportunities

The call for projects for the Smart Growth Incentive Grant, administered by SANDAG, has been delayed until early 2015. Staff recommends pursuing a grant for the Mobility Element Update and/or General Plan Update if the Caltrans application is unsuccessful and staff will return to City Council when a call for projects has been issued. |

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution (**Attachment B**) authorizing staff to file an application for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the preparation of a Street Design Manual, an ADA Transition Plan, Traffic and Noise Studies. |

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LEMON GROVE STREET DESIGN MANUAL

WHEREAS, up to \$8.3 million of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning funds are available to local jurisdictions in Fiscal Year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program was created to support the Caltrans mission to “*Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California’s economy and livability*”; and

WHEREAS, grants are available in amounts ranging from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted the current General Plan in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to identify and address current mobility deficiencies in the City’s multimodal transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has expressed a strong desire to implement a more comprehensive set of Complete Street policies in Lemon Grove; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to receive funds for the preparation of a Street Design Manual and an ADA Transition Plan; and

WHEREAS, a local match of 11.47% of in-kind or third-party contributions is required; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California hereby:

1. Authorizes submittal of an application to Caltrans for Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funding in the amount of \$120,000 for the preparation of a Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and Noise Study.
2. Authorizes the City Manager to execute applications and all other related documents; and
3. Assures Caltrans that the City will complete the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a grant award is made by Caltrans to fund Lemon Grove, the City Council commits to providing \$13,765 (11.47%) of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions and authorizes the City of Lemon Grove staff to accept the grant funds, execute the attached grant agreement with Caltrans, and complete the Lemon Grove Street Design Manual, ADA Transition Plan, Traffic Study and Noise Study.

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